

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 3-7 are amended; Claims 9-11 are added; and Claim 8 is canceled herewith. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at least on page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 6; and in Figs. 1-5, for example. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6-8 were objected to; Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,935,766 to Ato; Claims 2-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ato in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,943,855 to Nakano; and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ato in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,211,473 to Shanks.

With respect to the objection of Claims 6-8 as being in improper multiple dependent form, Claim 6 is amended to depend only from Claim 1 and Claim 8 is canceled by the present amendment. Claim 7 remains dependent upon Claim 6. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Claims 6-8 is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Ato, that rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, it is submitted that Ato does not teach or suggest a light-reflecting plastic film or sheet including predetermined areas having a three-dimensional shape, the three-dimensional shape being formed of a plurality of parallel projections such that the film or sheet has a peak-and-valley shape and a shape-retentive component fixed to an underside of the film or sheet abutting a valley portion of the three-dimensional shape, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, Ato discusses with respect to Figs. 4, 5B, 7B, and 9B, a reflection member 13, 43 that surrounds a cold-cathode tube from three sides: the front surface, the rear surface, and a side surface on the far side from the optical guide plate. See Ato, col. 4, lines 15-43; and Figs. 4, 5B, and 6, for example. The reflection member 13 also includes a reflection sheet 13b that covers the rear surface of the optical guide plate. *Id.* However, the reflection member 13 of Ato **does not have a three-dimensional shape formed of a plurality of projections such that the film or sheet has a peak-and-valley shape**, as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, the Office Action refers to extension 13c in Ato as being a shape-retentive component. However, Applicants respectfully submit that as shown in Fig. 3 and 5 of Ato, extension 13c merely assists in restricting the lateral “movement of the reflector 13a toward the central area of the LCD panel.” See Ato, col. 5, lines 5-21, for example. Thus, extension 13c is **not used as a shape-retentive component fixed to an underside of the film or sheet abutting a valley portion of the three-dimensional shape**, as also recited in Claim 1.

In contrast, Claim 1 recites a reflector plate that includes a light-reflecting plastic film or sheet with predetermined areas having a three-dimensional shape. See Fig. 2 of the present application, for a non-limiting example. The three-dimensional shape is formed of a plurality of parallel projections such that the film or sheet has a peak-and-valley shape. See the specification at page 8, line 22 to page 9, line 6, for example. Further, a shape-retentive component is fixed to an underside of the film or sheet abutting a valley portion of the three-dimensional shape in order to assist in retaining the three-dimensional shape.

With respect to the rejections of Claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Ato in view of one of Nakano and Shanks, those rejections are respectfully traversed. Neither Nakano nor Shanks make up for the deficiencies of Ato discussed above. Furthermore, Ato, Nakano, and Shanks, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed

features. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-5 patentably define over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to patentability over Ato, as well as for the features recited therein. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

New Claims 9-11 depend from Claims 2, 3, and 4, respectively. Claims 9-11 recite the features previously recited in Claim 5 and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for the features recited therein.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

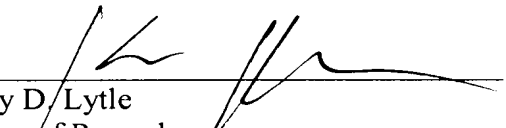
Respectfully submitted,

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